

TRI-LAKES MANAGEMENT PLAN

ITEM	GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS	WHO	WHEN	STS
Aquatic Species Management	Machine harvest aquatic plants to improve water quality, to provide safe boating areas and to improve aquatic habitat.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Annually	C
	<p>1. Harvest maps (Appendix A-D) will be followed by harvesting crew. Areas in the lakes 6 foot deep or greater will be harvested as needed to a depth of 5 feet. Areas shallower than 6 feet can have a harvested path of 60 feet wide with a harvest depth 4 feet or less. The path will get no closer to the shoreline than the docks. No machine harvesting in the areas between the shoreline and the ends of the boat docks. A 30 foot path may be hand harvested in these areas. Harvest period will be between mid-May and end of September.</p> <p>2. Conservancy areas will be marked on the harvest maps. 60 foot wide paths will be harvested in a criss-cross pattern. Harvesting depth shall be 4 feet or less.</p>	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Annually	C
	Monitor the harvesting of aquatic plants			
	<p>1. WDNR representative and a Tri-Lakes Management representative will together annually inspect harvesting operations.</p>	WDNR Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Annually	C
	<p>2. Record the pounds of aquatic plants removed by taking an average weight of a trailer full of plants harvested and multiplying this by the number of trailer loads. This will be documented and reported to WDNR Aquatic Plant Specialist by 12/31.</p>	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Annually	C
	<p>3. Tissues samples will be randomly taken from harvested plants and sent to a certified lab to measure the phosphorus content. This is done to determine the amount of phosphorus being removed from the lakes by harvesting plants.</p>	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Annually	C

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Aquatic Species Management continued ...	Eliminate the use of chemicals to control aquatic plants to improve water quality. This excludes noxious weed and invasive plant control.			
	1. Deny aquatic plant spraying permits for aquatic plant control around docks. Dead decaying plants release nutrients that algae uses for growth.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Annually	C
	2. Educate individuals on aquatic plant control methods by placing article developed by Adams LWCD in Lake Association newsletters.	Lake Associations Adams LWCD	Annually	C
	Update 2000 Aquatic Plant Community Survey			
	1. WDNR Lake Classification grant specifies aquatic plant survey to be conducted. Aquatic plants will be identified and quantified. Completed in 2006; reschedule in 3-5 years.	Adams LWCD WDNR	2010	C
	Prevent the spread of & try to eliminate invasive & noxious species			
	1. Invasive plants and noxious weeds will be mapped during aquatic plant survey.	Adams LWCD WDNR	2006	C
	2. Develop and implement plan to: control existing exotic, invasive and noxious species; and prevent the introduction of exotic, invasive and noxious species. This plan will include an educational component and a boat inspection component.	WDNR Private consultants Adams LWCD Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	2006	
	3. Pursue financial assistance for implementation of prevention and control plan.	WDNR Private consultants Adams LWCD Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	2007	

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Aquatic Species Management continued ...	Manage impacts to lakes resulting from the Zebra Mussel invasion.			
	1. Arrange for a series of articles and provide material to the Wisconsin Rapids newspaper, Adams-Friendship newspaper, fishing clubs and lake associations.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Annually	C
	2. Develop volunteer group to monitor boat landings.	Tri-Lakes, Associations	Ongoing	
	3. Investigate fish tourney permit process for zebra mussel monitoring practices. Made recommendation via WAL.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD, WDNR	2006	C
	4. Develop an advertisement to be placed in lake association newsletters and local newspapers to notify public that there are zebra mussels in Lake Arrowhead.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD, WDNR	Ongoing	C
	5. Seek funding from AIS grant for signs warning about zebra mussels. Signs will be placed on all boat launches.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD, WDNR	2006	C
	Monitor the impact of Zebra Mussels			
	1. Develop plan to monitor zebra mussels (WDNR monitoring protocol)		2006	C
	A. Veliger monitoring protocol (3 times June to Sept)	Tri-Lakes, WDNR, Adams LWCD WDNR	Annually	
	B. Shoreline surveys for adult zebra mussels (every month)	Tri-Lakes, WDNR	Annually	
	C. Substrate sampler (platforms) monitoring (3 in each lake)	Tri-Lakes, WDNR	Annually	
	2. Monitor zebra mussel research on control methods	Tri-Lakes, WDNR, Adams LWCD	Annually	
	3. Improve coordination and communications with WDNR Specialist & Adams LWCD	Tri-Lakes, WDNR, Adams LWCD	Annually	

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ITEM	GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS	WHO	WHEN	STS
Dams	Maintain and operate Arrowhead, Sherwood and Camelot Dams to insure public safety, proper dam function and a stable lake level.			
	1. Conduct annual inspections and record findings as specified in WDNR standards.	Engineer certified by Nat'l Assn. of Prof. Eng.	Annually	C
	2. Operate, inspect and repair dams to meet Wisconsin laws in Chapter 31 and NR Chapter 330. Tri-Lakes is under contract to operate the dams.	Adams LWCD Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Daily	C
	3. Review and update the Emergency Action Plan.	Adams LWCD	Annually	C
	4. Implement the Emergency Action Plan in times of emergency.	County Board Chair and Adams LWCD & Emergency Management	As needed	C
	5. Maintain water level gauges that are placed on the sides of the water flow control structures. These gauges will be the official tool used to determine lake levels.	Adams LWCD	Annually	C
	6. Recruit residents in the Town of Rome to apply for County dam operator positions.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	As needed	C

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ITEM	GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS	WHO	WHEN	STS
Recreational Uses	Manage boats for boating and skiing.			
	1. Provide areas for boating/skiing as part of the harvest plan.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Ongoing	C
	2. Regulate lake traffic to increase lake safety. This will be accomplished by implementing and enforcing state laws, county and town ordinances and lake association covenants.	Tri-Lakes, Lake Assns, Town of Rome, Adams LWCD, WDNR	Ongoing	C
	3. Recommend methods of enforcing state laws, county and town ordinances. Methods may include anonymous tips hotline, goodwill ambassador groups and education. Once methods have been identified, develop strategy to implement.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District	Ongoing	C
	Manage lakes for fishing.			
	1. Annually stock bass, panfish and forage fish in lakes as funding allows.	Lake Associations	Ongoing	
	2. Stock walleye every 2 years and northern pike every 4 years as funding allows.	WDNR	Ongoing	
	Manage lakes for swimming.			
	1. Improve safety of public swim area on Camelot Lake by marking with buoys	Town of Rome Adams Park & Rec	Ongoing	C
	Improve and develop parks associated with the Tri-Lakes.			
	1. Coordinate efforts to develop plan to improve and develop Tri-Lakes parks.	Town of Rome, Adams Park & Rec, Lake Assns	Ongoing	

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ITEM	GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS	WHO	WHEN	STS
Shorelands – area within 1000 feet of the lake	Reduce phosphorus and ammonia entering groundwater that then enters into Tri-Lakes.			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inventory and map septic systems within the Tri-Lakes Management District. Manage system to notify owners (pre-7/1/1992) to pump septic systems. 2. Investigate new septic system technology and develop plan to incorporate the new technology into local and state regulations. 	<p>Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD</p> <p>Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD WDNR</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	C
	Reduce nutrients entering the Tri-Lakes by surface water.			
	1. Develop policy and regulation to eliminate the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers and household products. Develop an educational plan to assist with enforcement.	Adams LWCD Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Town of Rome	2007	
	2. Educate lake shoreline owners on the benefits of riparian buffers and storm water runoff management utilizing meetings, newsletters and individual visits.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD Lake Associations	Ongoing	
	3. Plan/design and offer cost share to install shoreline protection, riparian buffers and storm water runoff management to areas identified in inventory. Utilize Adams Soil & Water Resource Mgmt Program & WDNR financial assistance programs.	Adams LWCD, WDNR, landowners, Lake Assns	Ongoing	
	4. Investigate economic incentives to shoreline property owners who install and maintain riparian buffers. Determine if this is viable and develop implementation plan.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Town of Rome Adams LWCD	2007	
	5. Promote and educate to utilize trees as part of shoreline restoration and buffer.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD	Ongoing	

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Water Quality	Reduce algae blooms and nutrient levels.			
	<p>1. Develop a plan to hold water in conservancy area. Utilize modeling during plan development. Present plan to WDNR for approval.</p> <p>2. Utilize the Citizen Monitoring Program to monitor water quality to measure clarity, chlorophyll a and total phosphorus</p>	<p>UW-Stevens Pt Tri-Lakes Mgmt District</p> <p>Adams LWCD Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Lake Associations</p>	<p>2007</p> <p>Annually</p>	C
	Educate community and public about ways to improve water quality.			
	<p>1. Write and publish informational articles in lake association newsletters and in Wisconsin Rapids Tribune.</p>	<p>Adams LWCD Lake Associations Tri-Lakes Mgmt District</p>	<p>Quarterly each year</p>	C
	Practice proper land use utilizing Comprehensive Plans and Zoning			
	<p>1. Within the Tri-Lakes watershed, continue to implement existing town Smart Growth plan.</p> <p>2. Encourage smart growth plan development by attending town meetings in those towns within the Tri-Lakes watershed who do not have Smart Growth plans.</p>	<p>Town of Rome</p> <p>Adams County Planning and Zoning</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p>	

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ITEM	GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS	WHO	WHEN	STS
Water Quantity	Maintain lake levels that enhance water quality and meet the requirements of Wisconsin Statute Chapter 31.			
	1. Operate dams to maintain lake levels and outflows as stated by WDNR. These operating levels are listed in Adams County I.O.M. Plan (Appendix G) Camelot Lake level will be maintained between 1013.0 and 1011.9 Sherwood Lake level will be maintained between 993.7 and 992.7 Arrowhead Lake level will be maintained between 964.25 and 963.7	Adams LWCD	Annually	C
	2. Investigate to gather scientific information on advantages versus disadvantages of major drawdowns. Present findings to WDNR.	Lake Associations	Annually	
	3. Investigate groundwater net flow around and through dams and determine what nutrient content the flow contains. Present findings to WDNR.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District UW-Stevens Pt	2006	C
	Maintain stable stream flows into and out of the Tri-Lakes.			
	1. Operate dams in proactive manner so large quantities of water are not released, causing downstream flooding and stream bank erosion. Lake levels will be lowered in a slow manner to accommodate anticipated heavy flows from the upper watershed.	Adams LWCD	Annually	C
	2. Investigate options for monitoring flows into Camelot Lakes. Made a decision if monitoring is a viable option and if so, develop plan to monitor flows.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD	Annually	C
	3. Request investigation of Arrowhead dam regarding excessive flow through toe drains. Pursue a structural study.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD	2010	C

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Watershed – land outside of shoreland area	Reduce 50% of the total phosphorus, total nitrogen and total solid sediments entering Leola Ditch, 14 Mile Creek and Unnamed Ditch 13-13 by 2010.			
	1. Inspect the drainage district annually to determine if requirements of Chapter 48 are being met, specifically: buffer corridors established and maintained around ditches; whether cross-sections or grade profiles of district ditches have changed; whether any ditches should be restored, altered or improved to ensure proper erosion or sedimentation problems. A report summarizing the annual inspection will be filed with the County Planning and Zoning Dept by Dec 1 of each year.	Adams Drainage Board	Annually	
	2. Implement State Agricultural Performance Standards by inventorying watershed and documenting: Runoff from livestock confinement operations entering surface waters; livestock direct access sites; uncontained livestock manure storage facilities; irrigation water management plans. Offer County, State, Federal cost share assistance and plan/design assistance to landowners identified in inventory so best management practices are installed for compliance with the State Agricultural Performance Standards.	Adams LWCD, NRCS, WDNR, Waushara LWCD Private organizations Agriculture Producers	2005 to 2009	
	3. Utilize the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program and WDNR Lake Protection Grant Program to provide plan/design and financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement best management practices to improve water quality and quantity.	USDA-NRCS Adams LWCD	Annually	
	4. Sample and test water as it enters Lake Camelot to determine total phosphorus, total nitrogen and total solid sediments to measure level of accomplishments.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD	Annually	
	5. Develop a presentation to show how watershed activities are impacting the Tri-Lakes. Show presentation to Adams Drainage Board and Ag. Producers.	Tri-Lakes Mgmt District Adams LWCD Adams Drainage Board	2007	

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Watershed – land outside of shoreland area continued ...	Create community awareness and improve community knowledge about watershed activities.			
	<p>1. Conduct a tour of cranberry and potato production operations to demonstrate best management practices.</p> <p>2. Educate landowners, agricultural producers and community about State Agricultural Performance Standards and best management practices utilizing newsletters, meetings and individual visits.</p>	<p>Tri-Lakes Mgmt District USDA-NRCS, Adams LWCD, Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Assn</p> <p>Adams LWCD, NRCS, WDNR, Waushara LWCD</p>	<p>2007</p> <p>Annually</p>	

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Comments/Suggestions Made During Public Participation 2006

Comment/Suggestion	Disposition
Can a screen be put up by 8 th Avenue bridge to prevent thick algae from entering Lower Camelot?	Screen not practical. Other suggestions to explore: coffer dam, bulkhead or bladder dam.
Cited article re Sawyer County suing cranberry farmers	Not pertinent since local growers are recycling water.
Last 2 years, water quality has been bad, but prior 23 years were good; will we have a dead lake in another year? DNR is more interested in plants and fish than people. Buzz Sorge replied that there are more people on the lakes than 25 years ago and that as lakes age, changes take place. Chris Murphy reminded us that last two years were drought conditions.	Water test data for the Tri-Lakes is consistent with other lake impoundments.
Zebra mussels are in lakes all around us (Arrowhead, Petenwell and Nepco), but not in Sherwood and Camelot where drawdowns were used.	Not a proven correlation of one to the other.
Lake Arrowhead dam inspection showed that zebra mussels were found from 10 to 36" and none below that level. If drawdown continues, they would be frozen out.	Zebra Mussels were found on the bottom of the lake during the Aquatic Survey.
Lakes were conceived and developed as <i>recreational</i> lakes.	Agreed.
Chris Murphy noted that an earlier meeting was held at the Rome Town Hall with the DNR and property owner group; need to get response to issues out to everyone.	Issues were discussed at the Annual Meeting.
Philosophy seems to have changed by DNR and that they are trying to make these man-made lakes act like natural lakes.	All man-made lakes in the state (there are a few thousand of them) are treated alike.
What's being planned for the <i>people</i> on the lakes? What about the damage to property? DNR seems to be planning for animals and plants only.	
Consensus message is that property owners want to continue drawdown.	Yes, but alternative is no weed harvesting.
Randy Ebbe noted that as a member of the Lake Advisory Group, he felt 90% of the Lake Management Plan is good; but that there are a couple of areas of disagreement.	Acknowledge comment.
Tremendous amount of algae in Lower Camelot; what is procedure when harvester breaks down?	5 th harvester is used on rotating basis to address critical areas.
Randy Ebbe read press release from Senator Lassa and Representative Schneider asking for DNR Secretary Scott Hassett to continue to allow the drawdown in order to control weed growth and zebra mussels.	
Why is water level down so much?	Drought and lower groundwater levels are affecting many lakes. UW-SP is researching.
Jeanne Osgood advised that there are some dollars left in the shoreline grants awarded to Lake Camelot. They may put some demonstration plots by the lodge and need volunteers. Call Tri-	

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Lakes or Camelot Lodge if interested.	
Water levels on lake affected by lawn watering. Perhaps education on “smart” watering.	Per DNR, this is not a significant drain on the lake levels. Tri-Lakes will develop informational flyer on “smart” watering.
If drawdown is so good, maybe Lake Arrowhead should also reconsider.	Drawdowns are not supported by Lake Arrowhead residents.
Concern expressed about getting boats off lifts due to low water situation.	Spring newsletter article to address situation.
Has anyone considered the effect of the 2002 flood on our current water quality? Seems like it started to go downhill after the flood.	Flood resulted in additional sediments and nutrient loading to the lakes affecting water quality.